



National Mall



Embassy of Canada



US Botanic Gardens and Bartholdi Park

31 7th Street Arts Walk - Seventh Street is the center of DC’s arts and entertainment district. Attractions include galleries, museums, the Shakespeare Theatre and Ford’s Theater, along with stores, apartments, movie theaters and office buildings. The area can be best explored on the third Thursday of every month, when free evening pub crawls include opportunities to peruse the art and photography galleries and meet the artists. (C)

32 National Council of Negro Women/Mathew Brady Studio - This prominent building, located at 633 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, is the headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, a voluntary non-profit membership organization founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune to help women improve their lives. Originally built in 1860 as a hotel, the building also hosted Civil War photographer Mathew Brady had a studio on the upper floors from 1858 to 1869. (H)

33 National Gallery of Art - The National Gallery’s west wing, which features European paintings and sculpture, from the thirteenth through the nineteenth centuries, and American art. The museum’s east wing showcases modern and contemporary art. The Sculpture Garden by the West Wing is a popular fountain in the summer and ice skating rink in the winter. (C,R)

34 National Museum of Natural History - The National Museum of Natural History cares for nearly 3 million ethnological, archaeological, and physical anthropology specimens from all over the world. It is located on the north side of the National Mall between 9th and 12th Streets NW. Exhibitions include 19th and 20th century Native American artifacts. (A)

35 National Museum of the American Indian - The NMAI plans to open on the south side of the National Mall, between 3rd and 4th Streets NW in 2004. The museum will offer a prominent

location for displaying more than 800,000 works of aesthetic, religious, and historical significance, spanning all major cultures of the Americas. (A)

36 Embassy of Canada - Canada and the United States are each other’s number one trading partner. This contemporary building, designed by Arthur Erickson Architects and constructed in the late 1980s, befits that status and makes a prominent diplomatic statement on the most important street in the Nation’s Capital. The building, located at 501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, contains a gallery featuring Canadian art that is open to the public. (C)

37 National Mall and Monument Grounds - This 189-acre greensward is the location of numerous national monuments, memorials, and Smithsonian Institution museums and galleries. It encompasses the area from Third to 17th Street, between Constitution Avenue, Independence Avenue, and the Tidal Basin. A two-mile vista visually connects the US Capitol with the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial beyond. Its wide gravel pathways are popular with runners and strollers. The Mall hosts the Smithsonian’s Folklife Festival, the U.S. Armed Forces Band Summer Concert Series, the Black Family Reunion Celebration, and the “Screen on the Green” Film Festival. (C,R)

38 US Botanic Gardens and Bartholdi Park - The United States Botanic Gardens - the Nation’s oldest, continually operating public garden - is a national treasure. Administered by the Architect of the Capitol, the conservatory is open daily free of charge and houses tree and plant species from around the world. Special exhibits showcase medicinal, economic, endangered, and primitive plants. A new National Garden is planned for a three-acre site adjacent to the conservatory and the Capitol grounds. Across Independence Avenue from the conservatory is Bartholdi Park, an attractive garden surrounding an ornate fountain. (N)

3 Intrinsic Qualities Resources of Significance

Capitol Hill

39 United States Capitol - The US Capitol is one of the most widely recognized buildings in the world, a symbol of America, the meeting place of Congress, an art and history museum, and a major tourist attraction visited by millions of people each year. The focal point of the US government’s legislative branch, it has housed the meeting chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives for almost two centuries. The location at the eastern end of the National Mall was part of L’Enfant’s original design. Believing it was a fitting site for placement of the “Congress House,” L’Enfant selected Jenkins’ Hill, which rises up in the center of the Federal City. President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the Capitol in 1793. Initially the building housed Congress, as well as the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the district court. The building was expanded over the years, reaching its present size and essential appearance by 1892. The east front extension was added between 1958 and 1962. Today the Capitol, a National Historic Landmark, occupies approximately four acres, with a floor area of 16.5 acres and total height of 288 feet. The traditional setting for Presidential inaugurations, it is one of the most powerful symbols of the United States of America. Views from the Capitol are spectacular: the western view across the length of the National Mall is especially grand in its scenic quality and perspective. (C,H, S)

40 US Capitol Grounds - The Capitol Grounds of today largely reflect the 19th century design of noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who removed mature trees in order to open views of the Capitol from all sides and created lawns and serpentine walkways in their place. More than three thousand trees from four continents are planted on the 274-acre grounds, making the area a world-class arboretum. Native trees, such as the 33 official state trees and the official tree of the District of Columbia, grow



Fig. 3-9 RESOURCES LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL

- Scenic
- Natural
- Cultural
- Historic & Archaeological
- Recreational



Union Station



United States Supreme Court

near trees from Asia, Europe, and North Africa. In addition, there are nearly 100 memorial trees on the Capitol grounds. The Capitol Grounds function as a public park and setting for ceremonies, demonstrations, and rallies. During the summer, school bands perform and there is a free series of evening concerts by the bands of the armed forces. The National Symphony Orchestra holds various holiday concerts on the west front lawn, and the lawn provides an excellent viewing place for Fourth of July fireworks. The decoration and lighting of an evergreen tree on the Capitol's west lawn during the winter holiday season has been a tradition for 40 years. A Capitol Visitor Center will be built underground adjacent to the Capitol's east front entrance. When complete in 2005, it will house exhibits, orientation theatres, visitor food service and restrooms, and a gift shop. (H, C, N)

41 Union Station - This monumental Beaux-Arts structure with its triumphal arches was designed by Daniel Burnham in the first decade of the 20th century when railroads were king as the major transportation gateway to the Nation's Capital. Burnham's intent was to bring order to what had been a chaotic intrusion of rail passenger lines into the city. Opened in 1907, Union Station reached its peak usage during World War II, when an estimated 100,000 passengers passed through its doors each day. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. After becoming almost derelict in the 1970s, Union Station gained new life under a \$150 million dollar restoration that turned it into one of the best performing retail centers in the region. It is also one of the top tourist destinations in Washington, attracting approximately 25 million visitors annually. It is also a highly successful transportation hub (AMTRAK, commuter rail, the Metro subway, and buses) for the city and the region. Union Station is located on Columbus Circle at Massachusetts Avenue and 1st Street NW. (H)

42 United States Supreme Court - This white marble, neoclassical-style building on the northeast corner of First and East Capitol Streets NE, houses the third branch of the United States government. It opened in 1935. The chief justice and eight associate justices of the court decide which cases to consider, hear actual legal arguments, and render decisions that continue to interpret our laws and shape the judicial path of our country. (H)

43 Library of Congress Buildings - The Library of Congress, a National Historic Landmark, was founded in 1800, making it the oldest federal cultural institution in the Nation. The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with more than 120 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The library's mandate requires that it receive two copies of every copyrighted work published in the United States. The treasures of the Library on public display include the Gutenberg Bible, a Buddhist sutra that is the oldest example of printing in the world, the largest rare book collection in North America, and presidential papers from 23 presidents. The collections are housed in three buildings: the Beaux-Arts Jefferson Building dates from 1887; the Adams Building is Art Deco and modernist in style and dates from the late 1930s; and the James Madison Building is a contemporary-style structure that opened in the early 1980s. In addition to offering access to the collections for scholars and researchers, the Library offers free exhibits, tours, lectures, films, concerts, and special events. (C,H)

44 Folger's Shakespeare Library and Theater - Henry Clay Folger and his wife Emily founded the Library in the 1830s to showcase their collection of Shakespearean books, manuscripts, paintings, and other objets d'art. Today the Library has grown to include a theater, which conducts performances of Shakespeare's works, as well as exhibitions, a museum shop, and other public events. (C)

45 Capitol Hill - Capitol Hill is one of the Washington, DC's oldest and most architecturally diverse communities and the city's largest residential historic district. The official historic district, which is bounded by the Capitol precinct on the west, F Street NE on the north, 13th and 14th Streets on the east, and the Southeast Freeway on the south, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. It reflects the social diversity and economic growth of the early capital and late 19th century expansion for middle-class workers. Almost every one of its 150 squares and 8,000 primary contributing buildings reflects different stylistic varieties and periods, including early 19th century manor houses, Federal townhouses, simple frame dwellings, ornate Italianate bracketed houses, and late 19th century pressed-brick row-houses. Capitol Hill also offers a wealth of arts, civic, cultural, and educational organizations and opportunities. The organizations and cultural opportunities, such as the Capitol Hill Arts League, Capitol Hill Garden Club, Eighth Street Merchant Society, Capitol Hill Group Ministry, and various neighborhood watches and associations, comprise a neighborhood that calls itself "Our Nation's Neighborhood." (H,C)

46 Seward Square - Seward Square extends along Pennsylvania Avenue between 4th and 6th Streets and is bisected by North Carolina Avenue SE. It was named for William Henry Seward, President Lincoln's Secretary of State during the Civil War. Seward was injured by an accomplice of John Wilkes Booth during the Lincoln assassination in 1865. Among the trees growing in the park are mature red oaks, elms and Japanese pagoda trees. (N)

47 Ebenezer United Methodist Church - This church, located on the northeast corner of Fourth and D Streets SE, within the Capitol Hill Historic District, is the third home of the oldest African-American congregation on Capitol Hill, founded in an integrated

congregation in 1805. A separate African-American congregation was founded in 1827 and worshipped in a frame building on this site. The current building dates from 1870. A sign on the outside of the church states that it established the first public school of Negro pupils in the District of Columbia in its early church building. (H)

48 The Maples - Today the site of Friendship House, a social services organization, this is one of the oldest surviving residences in the District of Columbia, dating from 1795. Located at 619 D Street SE within the Capitol Hill Historic District, its main façade is identified as 630 South Carolina Avenue, SE Built for a wealthy land speculator, the house was subsequently owned by such distinguished people as: Francis Scott Key; Constantino Brumidi, whose frescos decorate prominent public spaces in the Capitol; and Mrs. Emily Edson Briggs, the first woman to be given credentials for admission to the White House Press Room. (H)

49 Eastern Market - Adolph Cluss, who designed many buildings in the old City of Washington, including the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building, designed this structure in the 1870s for the public sale of fresh produce and meats. Located at Seventh and C Streets, and North Carolina Avenue SE, the red-brick structure blends well into the surrounding neighborhood and has served its original purpose for over 130 years. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. As the last public fresh-food and farmers' market in DC, Eastern Market features food vendors, crafts, and a non-profit organization to promote the arts. Primarily operating on weekends, the sidewalks are occupied by farmers selling produce in season and retail vendors out of season. (C, H)

50 Old Naval Hospital - Built in 1866 to as a hospital for Union forces operating on the Potomac, this facility, located on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE,



Seward Square



Eastern Market



Engine Company No. 19 Firehouse



Twining Square



Little White House

was used as a naval hospital until 1911. From 1920 until 1963 it was known as the Temporary Home for Veterans of All Wars, a private facility founded by Civil War veterans to provide temporary shelter to veterans. The building is Italianate in style and is surrounded by a high iron fence. A not-for-profit group called the Friends of the Old Naval Hospital is currently working on restoration and renovation plans. (H)

51 Congressional Cemetery - Members of Christ Church Washington Parish in 1807 established this cemetery at 18th & E Streets SE, but, by 1816, the grounds were being used by members of Congress and other city luminaries. Notables buried in the cemetery include John Philip Sousa, a lifetime resident of Capitol Hill; Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; Mathew Brady, the famed Civil War photographer; the architect Robert Mills; and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. Although the cemetery has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it has been neglected over the years. (H)

East of the River

52 Anacostia River - The Anacostia River, formerly much abused by pollution and neglect, is making a comeback as a significant natural resource in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Under protection by multiple federal and state government agencies, organizations, and partnerships - such as the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, the Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee - water quality in the river is improving. The river drains 176 square miles in the eastern part of the Potomac River watershed. The riparian corridor, despite great losses in wetlands and vegetative cover, holds value for many species of birds and other wildlife. The Anacostia shore has yielded Native American artifacts dating back 10,000 years.

This archaeological site offers much interpretive potential. One possible exhibition could be established in Anacostia Park and could tell story of Native Americans in this area prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans. (N,A)

43 Anacostia Park and Park Pavilion - Located along the eastern shore of the Anacostia River, Anacostia Park was the site of the WWI "Bonus Marches" and anti-integration "race riots" in 1949. Today, the park serves visitors of different class and ethnic backgrounds who come to fish, picnic, and gather with families and friends. Administered by the National Park Service, the 1,200-acre Anacostia Park is one of the District's largest and most important recreation areas. It includes Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens and Kenilworth Marsh, as well as hundreds of acres for ballfields, picnicking, basketball, and tennis. Within Anacostia Park, the Pavilion has space for roller skating and community events, including cookouts, celebrations, and candlelight vigils. The District operates a swimming pool and an Aquatic Education Center. Three concession-operated marinas, four boat clubs, and a public boat ramp provide access to the tidal river for recreational boating. A number of plans are proposed to improve trails and bikeways along the river and its tributaries. (C,H,R)

54 Twining Square - This park, located on Pennsylvania Avenue between 27th and 28th Streets SE, is a triangular area about as large as L'Enfant Square. The Hillcrest Community Civic Association has adopted the park from the National Park Service and has worked to beautify the area. (C)

54 Engine Company No. 19 Firehouse - This firehouse, located at 2813 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, is designed in the Arts and Crafts style, a late 19th and early 20th century movement that emphasized handcrafted work in everyday items. Although a firehouse is a common sight in cities, its design creates a visual

3 Intrinsic Qualities Resources of Significance

landmark for travelers in this section of the Avenue. Built in 1911, the building was originally brick, but has been covered in stucco. In 1925, the company became the last DC Fire Department company to switch from horse-drawn to motorized apparatus. (H)

56 Little White House - This residence at 2901 Pennsylvania Avenue SE is considered to be the oldest home on Pennsylvania Avenue east of the Anacostia River. (H)

57 Fort Circle Parks - Fort Dupont, Fort Davis, and Fort Stanton are three of the 63 Civil War fortifications that encircled the Federal City to protect it from Confederate attack. Fort Dupont Park, named for Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Dupont, consists of 376 rolling, wooded acres of oak, beech, and maple trees. The fort's parapets where guns were placed and troops stood watch are visible from a hiker-biker trail that crosses Pennsylvania Avenue to Fort Davis. Where the park abuts Pennsylvania Avenue, there is a dense forest in which nature watchers and birders can observe squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and many bird species. Fort Dupont Park is important to DC's African American community: cultural events include community gardening, family reunions, and performances of gospel, rhythm and blues, jazz and go-go music, a genre indigenous and unique to Washington. The Activity Center features artifacts associated with black soldiers who served the Union in the Civil War. As a "park for all seasons," recreational amenities include a sports complex, athletic fields, a softball diamond, and an indoor ice skating rink. Fort Davis was named for Colonel Benjamin F. Davis who was killed in battle at Brandy Station, Virginia, and features an overgrown earthwork. Access is from Alabama Avenue and from the hiker-biker trail across Pennsylvania Avenue. Within the Fort Circle Parks are the scenic drives of Fort Davis Drive and Fort Dupont Drive, the only completed "Fort Drive" elements of the historic McMillan Plan. The National Park Service administers the parks. (H,C,N,S,R)



Fig. 3-10 RESOURCES LOCATED EAST OF THE RIVER

- Scenic
- Natural
- Cultural
- Historic & Archaeological
- Recreational

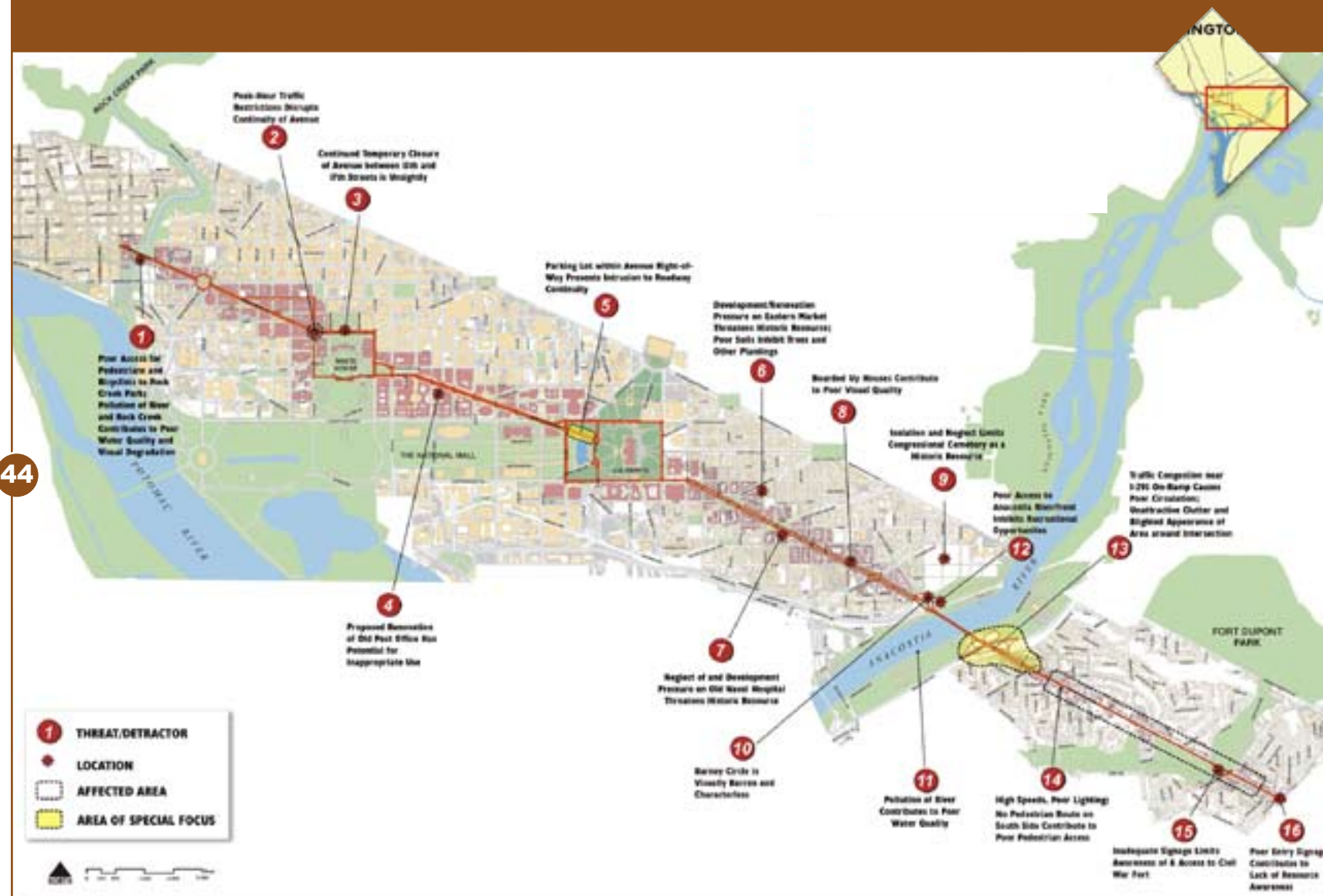


Fig. 3-11

THREATS AND DETRACTORS

Intrinsic Qualities Threats and Detractors

Four major categories of issues detract from the intrinsic qualities of Pennsylvania Avenue: lack of roadway continuity and poor circulation; poor visual or aesthetic quality and related natural resource problems; threats to historic preservation and development pressures on the Avenue; and limited accessibility and connections to resources.

Roadway Continuity & Circulation - From Rock Creek to areas east of the Anacostia River, the lack of roadway continuity and poor circulation is a major hindrance to the visitor's experience of the Scenic Byway. At Rock Creek Park, there is poor access for pedestrians and bicyclists. At 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, peak hour traffic restrictions make it nearly impossible for drivers to navigate the roadway. The continued temporary closure of the Avenue by the White House disrupts vehicular circulation. The parking lot within the Avenue right-of-way in front of the Capitol presents an intrusion to roadway continuity. East of the River, the on-ramp to the Anacostia Freeway experiences heavy traffic congestion during peak time periods. This segment often seems like a raceway - high speed traffic and poor street lighting, inhibit a visitor's pleasant experience of the Avenue. Likewise, the lack of sidewalks on the south side of the Avenue contributes to poor pedestrian access along this section.

Aesthetic Quality & Natural Resources - Some areas along the Avenue have a poor visual and/or aesthetic quality. For example, boarded-up houses along in the eastern part of Capitol Hill contribute to a poor visual quality in this area. Near the Sousa Bridge, Barney Circle is visually barren and characterless and fails to act as a gateway to Capitol Hill from the east or to the Anacostia River from the west. The unattractive clutter, overhead utility lines, and blighted appearance by the Anacostia Freeway on-ramp presents a poor visual image of this great Avenue. Related to visual quality is the quality of the corridor's natural resources, particularly water quality and vegetation. Pollution of the Potomac River, Rock

Creek, and Anacostia River contributes to poor water quality, which raises health concerns and inhibits water-based recreation. As development has occurred along the Anacostia River, significant areas of riparian habitat and wetlands have been lost. Trees and herbaceous vegetation suffer the stress of living in an urban environment, such as soil erosion, too much or too little water, and air pollution. Invasive, non-native plants threaten native ecosystems in areas such as Rock Creek Park. Finally, the compacted and shallow soils by the Eastern Market Metro Station inhibit growth of the trees and plantings, and the poor landscaping at the Potomac Avenue Metro Station hinders the plaza's vitality.

Historic Preservation & Redevelopment - There are threats to the historic structures along the Avenue, as well as pressures created by potential redevelopment of such areas. For example, the potential for inappropriate development in the West End could affect the remaining historic character of the area. Possible renovation or redevelopment of Eastern Market could threaten the preservation of this important City landmark. Additionally, neglect and development pressure threatens the Old Naval Hospital, which is one of the ten most endangered landmarks in DC. Congressional Cemetery's isolation - both visually and physically - from Pennsylvania Avenue and its years of neglect limit the cemetery's quality as a historic resource.

Resource Accessibility & Connections - Many of Pennsylvania Avenue's most important resources are virtually hidden from the visitor or inaccessible from the Avenue. For example, poor access to the Anacostia River waterfront inhibits the recreational opportunities afforded by this resource. Inadequate signage for Fort Davis prevents awareness of and access to the important Civil War earthworks. Additionally, poor entry signage at the Maryland State line contributes to a lack of overall awareness of the resource potential of the entire Avenue.

Summary of Issues

Lack of Roadway Continuity and Circulation

Aesthetic Quality and Natural Resources

Historic Preservation and Redevelopment

Resource Accessibility / Connections